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Arrangement number: J0082014
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Notification of Reasons for Refusal

Japanese patent application number: 2001-026947
Drafting date: November 19, 2003
Japan Patent Office examiner: Shinya Kanai 9745 5V00
Agent for the applicant: Mr. Kenji Tsuchiya (one other)
Applicable articles: Paragraph 2 of Article 29, and Article 36

This application should be refused based upon the following reasons. If you have any opinion, please submit a written opinion within sixty days from the dispatch date of this notification.

Reason(s):

(Reason 1)

The descriptions of the specification and the drawings in this application do not meet the requirement stipulated in the Patent Law, Paragraph 4 and Paragraph 6 of Article 36, for the following reason.

(Reason 2)

The invention related to Claims as described below in this application cannot be granted the patent in accordance with the stipulation of the Patent Law, Paragraph 2 of Article 29, because persons who have ordinary knowledge in the technical field to which the invention belong can easily invent the invention prior to the filing thereof, based upon inventions that are described in the following publications domestically or internationally distributed prior to the filing of the invention.

Description (Please see the referential list regarding references)

As to Reason 1:

It is unclear which description of the Detailed Description of the Invention the contents described in Claim 1 and Claim 4 refer to (e.g., what does “make grow the dot of the first group” refer to, a single pixel or all the pixels within the group?; the correspondence to the description of the thirty three line is not clear).

As to Reason 2:

Claim 1 to Claim 4

Reference 1 and Reference 2

Note:

In Reference 1, a technology that grows the dot of the first group in a first region with a lower concentration of input image data and the dot of a second group in a second region, and simultaneously grows the dots of both groups in a third region with a higher concentration thereof is described.

In Reference 2, a technology such that different dots start growing during a growth of a single dot in the region with the lower concentration is described.

Referential list

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application: No. 11-177821
 2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application: No. 05-176163
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Record of Prior Art Search Result

- Searched field: IPC 7th version

H04N1/40-409 H04N1/46 H04N1/60

- References of Prior Art

Japanese unexamined patent application No. 04-189068

Japanese unexamined patent application No. 08-163363

The record of prior art search result does not constitute any reasons for refusal.

US patent & Trademark Office

Translations Branch

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1/30/06